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Spying

CIA 1.01 McCone, John

CASTRO, Fidel

CIA 4.01 ASSASSINATION

ORG, MAFIA

McCone Denies Part In Any CIA Kill Plots

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, March 12 (News Bureau) — John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, denied today any knowledge of alleged CIA plots to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro or other foreign leaders.

"To my knowledge there's nothing that was brought to my attention that involves any attempt against Castro or any other person during my tenure of office," McCone said in an Associated Press interview. "I had frequent meetings with the President and Robert Kennedy and with others who were concerned about Cuba and . . . at no time at any of those meetings was any mention made of the assassination of Castro."

McCone, a Los Angeles industrialist, was named to head the CIA after the Bay of Pigs attack in 1961, replacing the late Allen W. Dulles, who was eased out by President John F. Kennedy. McCone continued to head the CIA during the early years of the Johnson administration, leaving in 1965. Robert Kennedy was attorney general during his brother's

administration and for a year under Johnson.

Two of Robert Kennedy's former aides, Adam Walinsky and Peter B. Edelman, have said that Kennedy told them he once learned of, and stopped, a CIA effort to use the Mafia to kill Castro before the Bay of Pigs attack.

But McCone, who insisted "It would have been the most natural thing in the world" for Robert Kennedy to have told him of such an incident, said that Kennedy never mentioned anything to him about it.

He said he was basing his comments on his own recollections and on a search of his files that he ordered following news reports of a CIA-Mafia link.

McCone attributed the news reports of CIA involvement in assassinations to disgruntled former employer of the agency.